



January 24, 2019

The Honorable Michael Sirotkin
Chair, Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee
Vermont Statehouse
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Re: Vermont Right to Repair Task Force Report

Dear Chair Sirotkin:

On behalf of the hundreds of manufacturers and businesses our organizations represent, we write to thank the Legislature for including us in the Right to Repair Task Force process and including many of our concerns in the final report¹. Most importantly, we are pleased that the task force's report did not include a recommendation for legislation.

The final report accurately acknowledged the complexity of the issue and highlighted several of the issues our organizations raised as critical concerns. These issues include the substantial privacy, security, and safety risks to consumers, businesses, governments and other users of electronic products; the impacts on business to business dealings, such as the contractual relationships between a manufacturer and a member of their authorized repair network; the strong record for reuse and recycling of electronic products in Vermont; potential for mass copyright infringement; and the need to protect intellectual property investments.

We want to draw your attention to the thoughtful and extensive legal memos^{2,3} prepared by the legislative counsel. The task force spent significant time reviewing and considering the material included in the memos. While not exhaustive, the concerns raised in the memos are

¹ Vermont Right to Repair Task Force Final Report (January 8, 2019). Retrieved at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Final-Report-R2R-Task-Force.pdf>

² Hall, D. (September 10, 2018). *Legal considerations arising from "right to repair" legislation* [Memorandum]. Retrieved at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2018.1/WorkGroups/RightToRepair/Testimony/W~David%20Hall~Memorandum%20-%20Hall~9-10-2018.pdf>

³ Hall, D. (October 9, 2018). *Supplemental Information on Legal Considerations* [Memorandum]. Retrieved at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2018.1/WorkGroups/RightToRepair/Testimony/W~David%20Hall~Right%20to%20Repair%20Memo~10-9-2018.pdf>

critically relevant for the Legislature to examine if it undertakes further deliberations on repair legislation.

We appreciate the opportunity to share these initial comments on the work of the task force. Should the Legislature wish to consider additional or related legislation, our coalition will be happy to be a resource.

Sincerely,

Associated Industries of Vermont (AIV)
Vermont Chamber of Commerce
Vermont Technology Alliance (vtTA)
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM)
Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
CTIA – The Wireless Association
Entertainment Software Association (ESA)
Internet Coalition
PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association
Security Industry Association (SIA)
TechNet

cc: Members of the Senate Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs
Committee
The Honorable Chris Pearson
The Honorable Matt Hill
Chris Curtis, Chief, Public Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General
Nick Grimley, Director of Entrepreneurship & Tech Commercialization, Agency of
Commerce and Community Development
Shawn Potter, IT Manager, Agency of Digital Services